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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 557
By Blackburn

A RESOLUTION to designate January, 2000, as "Bio-Tech Month in Tennessee".

WHEREAS, biotechnology has become increasingly important in the research and development of medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental products; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology has been responsible for breakthroughs and achievements which have benefited people for centuries and, in the 20th century, has contributed to extending the lifespan of Americans by 25 years through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology plays an integral role in the research for cures to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and numerous other medical ailments; and

WHEREAS, Crop yields and farm productivity have increased since the advent of biotechnology, and the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food and other uses which are critical to America's agricultural system have been enhanced; and

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WHEREAS, biotechnology promises many environmental benefits, including the protection of water quality, conservation of top-soil, improvement of waste management techniques, and reduction of chemical pesticides usage; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology has contributed significantly to the success of the United States in international commerce and trade, and will be a important catalyst for creating jobs in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1999, Tennessee became the 25th state to form a biotechnology association, representing companies and academic institutes involved in biomedical research and product development; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation, formed in 1998 by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, has committed up to \$50,000 to assist the Tennessee Biotechnology Association; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology will be an important catalyst for creating jobs in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all Americans to understand the role biotechnology contributes to their quality of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we designate January, 2000, as "Tennessee Biotechnology Month."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.